

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wyecroft
23 Broomy Hill,
HEREFORD

(Phone 2094)

2nd July, 1962.

Dear Member,

The ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE will this year be at CLYRO

on SUNDAY, the 15th JULY, at 3.15 p.m.

It will be conducted by the Rev. T. J. Lewis, B.A. (Vicar of Clyro) and the ADDRESS will be by PROFESSOR THE REV. W. MOELWYN MERCHANT, M.A., D.LITT., of the UNIVERSITY OF EXETER (and a Member of the Kilvert Society.)

It has been arranged that a WYE VALLEY MOTOR COACH (OR COACHES) will leave the CITY LIBRARY, BROAD STREET, HEREFORD, at 1.45 p.m.

Seats are 4/6d each and may be booked with Mr. G. C. Davies, WYEVAL Ltd, Bridge Street, HEREFORD, or at the Hon. Secretary's business premises "CONS" in Widemarsh Street, HEREFORD. SEATS MUST BE BOOKED BY OR BEFORE WEDNESDAY, JULY 11th, SO THAT A SECOND COACH CAN BE ORDERED, IF NECESSARY. IF MEMBERS WOULD KINDLY PAY FOR SEATS AT THE TIME OF BOOKING IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

Cups of tea (only) are very kindly being provided in the Church Hall at CLYRO after the Service - BUT MEMBERS MUST BRING THEIR OWN Eatables.

The route will be via Whitecross, Swainshill and Letton, returning via HAY and BREDWARDINE and thence via Swainshill back to Hereford. A halt will be made at BREDWARDINE, to enable members to visit Bredwardine Church and Churchyard, where the memorial on the grave of the Rev. Francis Kilvert has recently been thoroughly renovated, and where the cross to the memory of "Little Davie" is now back in position, with its added inscription.

May I appeal to you to remit your subscription for the current year, if you have not already done so, to our Treasurer, Mr. J. D. Worsey, 1, Harold Street, Hereford, or to me at the above address, as soon as you conveniently can.

Yours faithfully,

C. T. O. Worsey

Hon. Sec. THE KILVERT SOCIETY.

Members will be pleased to learn that Mr. William Plomer, D. Litt. is again coming specially to be present at Clyro. He is to read one of the Lessons, and after tea will read selections from Kilvert's Diary etc. in the Church Hall.

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

NOTES and NEWS JULY 1962

So many members have recorded their appreciation of these scraps of information and interest that a similar sheet will be sent out twice during each year.

From time to time someone or something with Kilvert connections turns up from unexpected places, often far distant. Recently a little package arrived from Africa (Basutoland) and in it a small prayer book with the following inscription on the flyleaf .. "Amy Lowder - with the love and blessing of her Godfather and Godmother - Robert and Thermuthis Kilvert. Feb 21st 1848 .. Isaiah LXV. 24." With it came a letter from Mrs. M. Lowder who is a Government Librarian in Basutoland. She wishes the Kilvert Society to have it and tells us that Amy Lowder was her great-aunt, and sister to the John Lowder of the Diary (but there called Fred Lowden ... he was Frederick John Lowder) who is mentioned as being the escort of some Japanese Princes to the Battlefield of Waterloo. Mrs. Lowder tells us that their father was Rector of Chippenham and that John Lowder's wife founded the Red Cross in Japan.

From the U.S.A. there came recently a letter from Mr. J. Theodore Morris (Pennsylvania). Mr. Morris was in Bredwardine churchyard a few years ago, and in conversation with the Rev. Crowther Smith it was revealed that his mother's original home was at Brobury; she was Marianne Powell and is mentioned in the Diary (p. 414 in Vol. 3) and Mr. Morris had a photostat done of the letter that Kilvert wrote to her on July 7th, 1879. The Rev. Crowther Smith sent his copy of this photostat to the Kilvert Society when he left Bredwardine. The recent letter from Mr. Morris tells us that he also has the booklet "Thoughts and Prayers for Young Communicants" that was given to his mother's sister, inscribed "Jane Powell, with best wishes from her sincere friend, the Rev. R. F. Kilvert, Advent 1878". Mr. Morris is about to buy the newest set of Kilvert's Diary and is also going to join the Society. We shall then have 5 members in the U.S.A.

On the occasion of the 104th birthday (in May) of the Rev. John Evans of Brecon a letter was sent to him offering him the congratulations and good wishes of the Kilvert Society. His reply was written in his usual immaculate handwriting, which gives no clue to his age. In it he said, "I began my ministry in South Radnorshire, viz Painscastle and Rhosgoch, on the last Sunday in 1887. One of the leading members at Hermon, Rhosgoch, informed me that Kilvert called at the Mill there and spoke to William Powell; his good-bye words were, 'Keep the old Mill going, boy.'" He went on to say how he had enjoyed reading Kilvert's Diary and was impressed by the fact that although Kilvert fell in love with every pretty girl he met his married life was lamentably brief.

The Rev. John Evans is the oldest Nonconformist (Congregational) minister in Wales, and is a familiar figure about Brecon, and often to be seen walking briskly around the town. He celebrated his 104th birthday by preaching in a

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Breconshire chapel; some two years or so ago he preached in Brecon Cathedral; his strong voice fills the building in which he preaches, and crowds flock everywhere to hear him. (See Volume 1, page 68 re William Powell and Rhosgoch Mill).

It is now quite definite that we go to CLIFFORD for the 1963 Kilvert Commemoration Service; the Vicar of Clifford (the Rev. C. J. Hayes) very kindly suggested this after the Bryngwyn service in 1961 and the Committee decided to accept this invitation. The Rev. Hayes has now confirmed this and the 1963 service will thus be in Herefordshire after being for the previous 5 years in Radnorshire and Breconshire. Clifford is some 3 miles or so from Hay, and almost mid-way between Hay and Bredwardine. Kilvert was a frequent visitor to Clifford, for the Diary speaks of many visits to Clifford Priory, and on 27th September 1878 he preached to a very full church at the Harvest Festival service at Clifford.

Members will no doubt be interested to learn that Mr. William Plomer, D.Litt. is coming to Hereford again on September 20th. On that day there is to be a Recital of Poetry and Music in the Great Hall of the Bishop's Palace in aid of a Fund for the Three Choirs Festival (Hereford). Tickets are to be 10/6d each (including coffee) and it is to be at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Plomer will give selections from the poetry and prose of Francis Kilvert, Thomas Traharne, Henry Vaughan and others and also from his own poems.

The Fund for the restoration of the memorial cross on the grave of "LITTLE DAVIE" in Bredwardine churchyard is steadily growing, but quite a few more pounds are needed before the monumental masons' account can be paid. As these notes are being compiled it can be seen in the sculptors yard in Hereford, looking wonderfully new after 83 years now that it has been cleaned and re-lettered, and its additional base bears the inscription "This cross was restored in 1962 as a memorial to Francis Kilvert's love for little children". Would members who intend to subscribe towards this, but have not yet done so, please send in their donations now.

Very soon now the memorial will be back in place in Bredwardine churchyard, and no doubt many members will call there to see it at the same time as they visit the Rev. Kilvert's restored memorial.

A lady member from Derby some time last year visited the Museum in Nottingham Castle among the exhibits she saw were some old horse drawn carriages; somewhat to her surprise she saw a small card on them which stated that they formerly belonged to the Baskervilles of Clyro Court. Kilvert refers to the carriages of the Baskervilles on several occasions, and no doubt rode in them. It is surely of some interest to know that they are preserved and can be seen at Nottingham.

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CHRISTMAS CARDS OF THE KILVERT COUNTRY

Our Member Mr. G. C. Davies - WYEVIL LTD. of Bridge Street, Hereford, is producing Christmas cards with photographs (in colour and in black and white) of scenes in the "Kilvert Country". Members who would be interested in purchasing some of these are asked to get in touch with Mr. Davies at the above address, for advance information.

Has any member either complete sets of Kilvert's Diary or odd volumes for sale? Several members are eager to buy, and there will be no difficulty in disposing of anything offered at reasonable prices. Please write to the Hon. Sec. stating which volume and price asked.
